



SOCIAL SCIENCE EVIDENCE AND RESEARCH IN LEGAL SETTINGS (256F)


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## CHAPTER V. METHODS OF UTILIZING AVAILABLE STATISTICAL DATA: LASP CASE STUDIES

### Introduction

In this chapter we draw on four cases from the files of the Legal Action Support Project to provide a framework for illustrating techniques we have found useful in locating, processing and effectively presenting available statistical data in support of court actions brought by Legal Services attorneys. Each of them is treated here as a case study. The legal problem in each instance and the resulting research problems are briefly described to provide the necessary background for a presentation of methods of analysis, which constitutes the major part of the chapter. Each method (e.g., aggregating scattered data into single tables or graphically presenting statistical data) is illustrated by the actual work we did in a particular case. The methods discussed here represent neither very elementary nor very complicated techniques commonly employed in processing and analyzing social data.

### Case Study A: The Relationship Between Poverty and Race in New York City

#### The Problem

This case study derives from research assistance given to Legal Services attorneys who brought suit against the United States and a large private rental organization in New York City. The suit concerned the rights of welfare recipients to obtain housing in the private sector.

The rental organization, managing more than 20,000 apartments, had reached an agreement with the U.S. Government (resulting from a



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